

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 12, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment of the invention the distance 20 of the focus point 19 is set at 4 meters. An object 24 at that distance 19 will be in focus upon the image screen 18 of the electronic imaging element 18. Using an imaging element 18 with a small pixel size 22 such as 3 μ m and a large aperture 16 with an f-stop number of 1.2, the rear DOF will be about 1.16m. An object 24 that is at the focus point 19 or at a point within the about 1.16m of the rear DOF will appear in focus on the electronic imaging element 14. Thus, an object that is further away from the sensor than the focus point of about 4 meters plus the rear the rear DOF of 1.16 meters will appear out of focus to the image processor 38. Such out of focus objects will be eliminated ~~from~~ from the signal processor's consideration and will not interfere with the proper function of the sensor 10.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 17, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

With a typical optical sensor, an image such the picture of a vehicle 84 on a billboard 87 may be mistakenly detected as a vehicle that may cause an impact. Because the image on the billboard is large, it may appear to a typical sensor as a vehicle close to the sensor. Such improper identification of an object may result in a safety system like an airbag being mistakenly activated. However, the rear 85 of the vehicle ~~85~~ 84 on the billboard 87 is at a distance 86 much greater limits of the depth of field of the sensor 10 of the present invention. Thus, the image of the vehicle 87 will not be in focus and can be disregarded by the signal processor.